

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
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THOSE CHARGES AGAINST WHAT THE RECORD S

It's now possible to piece together much of the story about the Central Intelligence Agency that is being presented to committees of Congress.

These committees are investigating charges that the CIA plotted assassinations of foreign leaders, helped engineer coups to overthrow governments, spied on U.S. citizens in this country, opened and read thousands of private letters and listened in on private telephone calls by Americans.

Months will elapse before the Senate and House committees complete their inquiries—and the final, official findings are published. Much of the testimony has been given behind closed doors. Yet a substantial part of the disclosures has become public.

The following report tells what is now known of the "case" against U.S. intelligence organizations.

CIA ROLE IN ASSASSINATION PLOTS

Did the CIA actually go out and kill—or try to kill—foreign leaders in the name of the U.S. Government? This is the biggest mystery of all.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Operations, which is investigating assassination charges, has taken all its testimony in secret. But much has emerged from public statements outside the closed hearing room by Committee members and witnesses, and from other public sources.

Most of this information concerns the charge that the CIA organized repeated plots to kill Cuba's Communist Premier, Fidel Castro.

One Committee witness was John Roselli, a former member of the Al Capone gang and long a part of an organized-crime syndicate known as the Mafia. Roselli, according to Committee members, testified that he was recruited by the CIA in 1961 to kill Premier Castro, his younger brother, Raul Castro, and the Cuban revolutionary leader Ché Guevara.

Another witness was Robert Maheu, a former top aide to billionaire Howard Hughes and once a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, who said he worked several years for the CIA on a retainer of \$500 a month, beginning in 1954.

In a news conference following his testimony before the Senate Committee, Mr. Maheu said he was ordered by the CIA to enlist the help of two underworld figures to "eliminate" the Cuban leader. He identified the two underworld figures as Roselli and the late Sam Giancana, who was murdered recently in Chicago before he could be called as a witness. Senator

Frank Church (Dem.) said there was no re-creation of the circumstances of Sam Giancana's death.

According to Mr. Maheu, Cuban contacts to Castro household, and

rules were to be used to kill. "But," Mr. Maheu said, "the plan was always subject to a 'go' signal which never came."

Of his own knowledge. Premier Castro himself has said that he knew of at least a dozen serious attempts against his life by counterrevolutionary groups under CIA control. Most of the attempts, he told news reporters, occurred in the early 1960s. He added that he had no grounds to assert that the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy and his brother, then U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, were directly involved in the plots.

Senator Richard Schweiker (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, a member of the Senate Committee, has urged that the investigation of John Kennedy's 1963 assassination be reopened because, in the Senator's view, the plots against Castro provided a political motive for a possible Cuban involvement in the Kennedy shooting, which the investigators did not consider.

Several former Kennedy aides have rejected that possibility. Theodore Sorensen, a onetime Kennedy speechwriter, talked to reporters after testifying at a closed session of the Senate Committee and said: "It's very clear to me that President Kennedy at no time authorized, approved, condoned or even knew of any assassination plot as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy against a leader of any foreign country." Former White House aide Richard Goodwin has quoted President Kennedy as warning in 1961 that involvement in foreign assassinations could bring retaliatory attacks. According to Mr. Goodwin, the President said: "If we get into that kind of thing, we'll all be targets."



Secretary Kissinger

Chairman Church



Chairman Pike

Secretary of State Kissinger on August 12 was final witness on assassinations before Senate Committee headed by Senator Church. Representative Pike heads House panel.